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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : T. ISHIKAWA

Group Art Unit: 2877

Appl. No. : 09/820,820 (Divisional of
U.S. Patent Application No. 08/916,408)

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Filed : March 30, 2001

For : PATTERN READING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98,
Applicant hereby calls the following information to the Examiner's attention:

In an Office Action dated August 18, 1999 in parent application No. 08/916,408, of
which the present application is a divisional under 35 C.F.R. 1.53(b), the Examiner cited the
following document:

U.S. Patent No. 4,795,911 to KOHNO et al., issued on January 3, 1989.

In an attachment to the Notice of Allowance dated June 5, 2001, in the same parent
application, the Examiner cited the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 4,865,455 to KOHNO et al., issued on September 12, 1989;

U.S. Patent No. 4,416,538 to MUELLER et al., issued on November 22, 1983;

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U.S. Patent No. 4,314,763 to STEIGMEIER et al., issued on February 9, 1982;

U.S. Patent No. 3,790,287 to CUTHBERT et al., issued on February 5, 1974; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,504,317 to TAKAHASHI, issued on April 2, 1996.

In an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office filed on December 15, 1997, in the same parent application, the following documents were cited:

Japanese Provisional Publication No. HEI 6-129844, published May 13, 1994 together with an English language translation;

Japanese Provisional Publication No. HEI 7-107346, published April 21, 1995 together with an English language translation;

Japanese Provisional Publication No. HEI 6-3625, published January 14, 1994 together with an English language translation;

Japanese Provisional Publication No. HEI 7-325036, published December 12, 1995 together with an English language translation;

Japanese Provisional Publication No. HEI 7-83845, published March 31, 1995 together with an English language translation;

U.S. Patent No. 5,497,234 to HAGA, issued on March 5, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 4,968,876 to LIMA, issued on November 6, 1990;

U.S. Patent No. 5,583,632 to HAGA, issued on December 10, 1996; and

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European Patent No. 0 702 206 A2 to LEDGER, issued on March 20, 1996.

Applicant notes that copies of the above-noted documents were either cited and copies submitted together with the above-mentioned Information Disclosure Statement or were cited by the Examiner in the parent application of 08/916,408 of which the present application claims an early effective filing date in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 120. Therefore, copies of these documents are not attached hereto.

Applicant also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending and commonly assigned patent applications, which are also divisionals of the above-mentioned U.S. Patent Application No. 08/916,408, based upon a restriction requirement issued in the above-noted parent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/820,821 to ISHIKAWA et al., entitled "Pattern Reading Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/820,633 to ISHIKAWA, entitled "Pattern Reading Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/820,822 to ISHIKAWA, entitled "Pattern Reading Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/820,825 to ISHIKAWA, entitled "Pattern Reading Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/821,017 to ISHIKAWA, entitled "Pattern Reading

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Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/821,018 to ISHIKAWA, entitled "Pattern Reading Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/820,019 to ISHIKAWA, entitled "Pattern Reading Apparatus", filed on March 30, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of each of the above-mentioned applications should be attached; however, since specifications of all these related applications are essentially the same as that of the present application, copies of the specifications of these applications are not being submitted herewith.

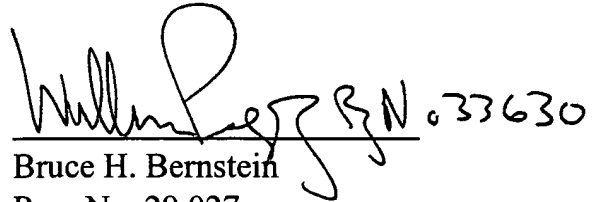
Copies of the claims alone, which are consistent with the restriction requirement made by the Examiner in the parent application, are being submitted. Accordingly, in view of the above-noted substantially identical nature of the specifications of each of these co-pending applications, a waiver of the requirement to submit duplicative copies of these specifications is respectfully requested together with consideration of these applications. However, Applicant will provide a copy of the related applications upon request by the Examiner. Thus Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material.

The Examiner is invited to obtain and review the files of the above-listed applications and any relevant references of record therein.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
T. ISHIKAWA


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June 27, 2001
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